

U.S. and Soviet to Pave Way to Summit

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WASHINGTON, April 7 — Secretary of State George P. Shultz and the Soviet Foreign Minister, Eduard A. Shevardnadze, will probably meet in Washington in the second half of May to prepare the way for a summit meeting that could be held in July, Reagan Administration officials said today.

The decision to proceed with summit planning came against a background of recriminations between the two countries in recent months. American officials said they hoped this might indicate a more constructive relationship.

The officials said Mr. Shultz and Vice Adm. John M. Poindexter, the national security adviser, met for breakfast this morning at the State Department with Anatoly F. Dobrynin, the departing Soviet envoy, to discuss a date for the Shultz-Shevardnadze meeting.

That meeting in turn would prepare for the meeting between President Reagan and Mikhail S. Gorbachev, the Soviet leader. No date has been set for that meeting, but it could occur in July, Administration officials said.

Dobrynin to Meet With Reagan

In keeping with Mr. Shultz's recent request for a return to private diplomacy, few details of the breakfast meeting were made known. Mr. Dobrynin is to meet with Mr. Reagan at the White House on Tuesday morning, and it is possible that an announcement on the Shultz-Shevardnadze meeting might be made afterward, officials said.

A United States underground nuclear explosion is also due to be detonated at the Nevada test site on Tuesday, State Department officials said. Mr. Gorbachev has said the Soviet moratorium on testing nuclear devices would end when the next American nuclear device is exploded. Washington has rejected his proposal for a complete ban on such explosions.

Because of a delay of months in agreeing on a summit date, the matter has taken on symbolic significance here as a test of Soviet-American relations.

At the close of the summit meeting in Geneva last November, the two leaders agreed to meet in 1986 in the United States and in 1987 in the Soviet Union. Mr. Reagan said Mr. Gorbachev had consented to come in June. But the repeated failure of Moscow to set the date officially led the White House to become irritated, and to raise questions about Mr. Gorbachev's willingness to live up to a commitment.

Shultz's Schedule

In the talks today with Mr. Dobrynin, the focus was on the "window" between Mr. Shultz's return from a trip to Asia on May 11 and his departure for a North Atlantic Treaty Organization

foreign ministers' meeting in Halifax on May 30, Administration officials said. Mr. Shultz had first invited Mr. Shevardnadze to come to Washington in January and then in March, but never received a reply.

The White House said it was expected that Mr. Shultz and Mr. Shevardnadze would discuss the timing and contents of the long-awaited second summit meeting between Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev.

The White House has been pressing for Mr. Gorbachev to come here no later than July, and State Department officials said today that if Mr. Shevardnadze met with Mr. Shultz next month, a July date for the summit meeting was still possible.

Mr. Reagan, in addition to official talks in Washington, would like to show Mr. Gorbachev parts of the rest of the country, Administration officials said. He has often said there could be an easing in Soviet-American relations if Mr. Gorbachev could get a better understanding of this country.

The Soviet leader has never been here. He visited Canada several years ago when he was the Communist Party secretary in charge of agriculture.

Some Months Are Inconvenient

The Administration has said that because of vacation schedules, August was not a good month for the summit meeting. It does not want September because of a pressing legislative calendar, or October because of the Congressional election campaigns. This means that if the summit meeting is not held by the end of July, it might not occur until late November or early December at the earliest.

Mr. Dobrynin, who has been named to the Soviet leadership as the Communist Party secretary in charge of foreign relations with non-Communist countries, returned here Friday night for several days of farewells, after 24 years as envoy to Washington.

On Wednesday, Mr. Shultz is to give a lunch in his honor and attend a reception at the Soviet Embassy that night in which Mr. Dobrynin, who was the doyen of the diplomatic corps, will pay his respects to the diplomats here.

Meanwhile, the State Department distanced itself from remarks by William J. Casey, the Director of Central Intelligence, on Sunday. In a sharply anti-Soviet speech to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, Mr. Casey linked the Soviet Union to support for terrorist groups.

Today, Bernard Kalb, the State Department spokesman, said that while the Administration believed Moscow had given "indirect support" to groups linked to terrorism, "in contrast to Iran, Syria and Libya, we have no evidence of the Soviets' directly planning or orchestrating terrorist acts by Middle Eastern, West European or Latin American groups."

Mr. Kalb also noted that Mr. Gorbachev, in his report to the Soviet Communist Party congress in February, "condemned terrorism" and said Moscow was prepared to cooperate in international efforts to combat it.

"We believe that urgent and concerted international action is needed to combat terrorism," he said. "We would regard as constructive and welcome Soviet willingness to take practical measures to combat international terrorism."